

# MHawaii MARINE

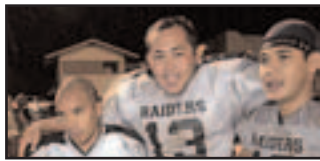
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Checkpoint  
A-3



Lost  
B-1



Champions  
C-1

## Hawaii loses 4 ‘Island Warriors’ in Al Anbar

**Press Release**  
*Marine Corps Base Hawaii*

Marines assigned to Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, lost four of their own within three days of each other in combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Killed in action Nov. 22 were: Lance Corporals Joshua C. Alonzo, 21, a team leader from Moore, Texas; James R. Davenport, 20, a mortarman from Hendricks, Ind.; and Private Heath D. Warner, 19, a rifleman from Stark, Ohio. The fourth “Island Warrior,” Lance Cpl. Jeremy D. West, 20, a mortarman from Riverside, Calif., died Nov. 25. All four deployed to Iraq with their unit in September.

Alonzo and West joined the Marine Corps June 2004 and reported to Hawaii November 2004. Both deployed to Afghanistan with 2/3 from May 2005 to January.

Davenport and Warner joined the Marine Corps in July 2005 with Warner reporting to Hawaii in February and Davenport reporting in March.

Alonzo’s and West’s awards include the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Davenport’s and Warner’s awards include the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



President George W. Bush and wife Laura choose menu items during a breakfast with 300 service members at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where the president met and greeted troops, shaking hands and congratulating them for a job well done.

## Bush visits Hawaii’s troops, wraps up Asia-Pacific tour

**Pfc. Ethan Hoaldrige**  
*U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific*

**HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii** — President George W. Bush and Laura Bush stopped in for breakfast with 300 service members at Hickam Air Force Base Nov. 21.

The president and his wife met with the troops, shaking their hands and congratulating them for a job well done.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also accompanied the commander-in-chief during his short visit to Oahu, which concluded the president’s six-day trip to the Asia-Pacific region.

Bush held meetings in Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam to discuss the common threats of terrorism, pandemic outbreaks and North Korea’s nuclear weapons.

“It’s in our national interests to support these countries as we fight these threats,” said Bush in a speech to the troops. “You help our freedoms’ cause when you fight terrorism and provide humanitarian assistance. You fight for freedom.”

President Bush said he hopes that for generations to come, our nation will look back and remember these service members as the finest armed forces ever known.

Bush visited U.S. Pacific Command to meet with officials and troops before he returned to Hickam to board Air Force One. At Hickam the president shook the hands and patted the backs of 100 service members who waited on the flight line to greet the president.

Before leaving, the president said, “I am very proud of the individuals who decide to make a contribution to our freedom. It takes a special kind of person to say they want to serve something greater than themselves,” said Bush. “Thank you for your sacrifice, troops.”

## Commandant sends message to all

As your new Commandant, let me begin by stating how proud I am of our Corps during this time of war and great national challenge.

You are honorably carrying on our long legacy of selfless service to the Nation.

On the dusty plains of Iraq, in the mountains of Afghanistan, and in numerous other locations, Marines and Sailors are engaged in a complex form of warfare and are serving with great distinction. Here at home, countless others ensure our Corps remains ready for the fight.

The task before us is challenging, but, Marines, you are a tough breed — born of epic battles and tempered in the crucible of honor.

We will persevere and we will win!

Our Marines and Sailors in combat are our number one priority. With this priority in mind, we will focus on the following over the next few years:

- Achieve victory in the Long War.
- Right-size our Corps to achieve a 1:2 deployment-to-dwell ratio.
- Provide our Nation a naval force that is fully prepared for employment as a MAGTF across the spectrum of conflict.
- Reset and modernize to “be most ready when the Nation is least ready.”
- Improve the quality of life for our Marines and our families.
- Rededicate ourselves to our core values and warrior ethos.
- Posture the Marine Corps for the future.

I have provided separate guidance to the general officers of the Marine Corps to advance these important areas of focus. Our Corps has fought hard and worked arduously these past few years, and there is still much to be done — but together, we can achieve these goals.

Within 30 days, I want commanders at all levels to review this Guidance with their Marines, Sailors and civilians. I plan to visit many of you over the next several months. I will seek your feedback on this Guidance and your ideas on how we can continue to defeat our adversaries, best serve our Nation, and forge the next chapter in the proud history of our Corps.



## All decked out



Christine Cabalo

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony and caroling will be held Sunday at Dewey Square. The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band will conduct a one-hour concert in the Base Theater beginning at 4 p.m. At the end of the band concert, the drum section will lead the audience out to Dewey Square where Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, will light the tree along with the help of children of deployed Marines. There will be limited seating at Dewey Square, so attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or a similar alternative.

## Flu shots available

**Press Release**  
*Naval Health Clinic Hawaii*

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Preventive Medicine staff along with Army and Air Force Preventive Medicine staff will provide influenza immunizations to all DoD beneficiaries (ID required) at commissaries and exchanges in preparation for the 2006 flu season.

The Preventive Medicine departments along with the Joint Public Health Working Group will take the influenza immunizations to the public in the “Pandemic Road Show.” Immunizations will be available at the:

- Hickam Air Force Base Exchange today from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Commissary Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Although receiving an influenza immunization is voluntary for civilians, it is highly recommended to reduce the chance of catching this year’s flu or reducing its severity if you are exposed to the infection.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

\* Log on to <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/CMC-Guidance.doc> to read the CMC’s Planning Guidance.



# News Briefs

## VR-51 Change of Command Ceremony

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51 will hold its change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, at Hangar 105 Saturday at 11 a.m.

Commander Jess H. Umphenour, VR-51's executive officer, will relieve Cmdr. Steven E. Whitmore as commanding officer.

## Toys for Tots Collection Underway

A Toys for Tots collection box will be available at the Honolulu Hale Courtyard as a drop for new and unused toys from Saturday through Dec. 19 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. People visiting Honolulu Hale to view the Honolulu City Lights displays or enjoy the live entertainment are welcome to bring a new and unwrapped toy to help make the holiday season brighter for a deserving child.

For more information on the Toys for Tots collection at Honolulu Hale, contact the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts at 523-4674 or log on to [www.honolulu.gov/moca](http://www.honolulu.gov/moca).

## Toys for Tots Looking for Warehouse Space

Marine Corps Toys for Tots is in desperate need of warehouse space, approximately 30' by 30' or larger, to put this year's Christmas toys.

Call Staff Sgt. Rob Marchand, Toys for Tots coordinator for the Islands of Hawaii, at 457-5526 for more details.

## Waikiki Liberty Bus Schedule Service

The following is the schedule for the Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Liberty Bus, which makes trips from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to Waikiki and back every Friday and Saturday. This shuttle service is free and offered to active duty service members with ID, only.

<b>Pickup</b>
Marine Corps Exchange and Enlisted Club
<b>Drop Off</b>
Hale Koa Hotel parking structure*
<b>Time</b>
6:35 p.m.
9:25 p.m.
01:25 a.m.
<b>Pickup</b>
Hale Koa Hotel
<b>Drop Off</b>
Marine Corps Exchange Annex and Enlisted Club
<b>Time</b>
7:50 p.m.
Midnight
03:00 a.m.

\*The pickup location in Waikiki is located across the street from the Hale Koa Hotel near the vehicle entrance to the parking structure.

## Conserve Energy

Turn off all lights and electrical devices/items in the rooms or office if not occupied.

Every little bit you do shows a great impact for all.

## Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

# Hawaii MARINE

[www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil)

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# Service with a smile



Cpl. Brandon L. Roach

Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter serves Thanksgiving dinner to deployed service members at Al Asad, Iraq, Nov. 23. Winter and his staff visited troops in the Al Anbar province of Iraq throughout the holiday to show support to fellow Americans serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is the 74th Secretary of the Navy and has held holding the position since Jan. 3.

# How to add a termination clause to a rent or lease agreement

## Major Emmanuel V. Tipon

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Legal Assistance

Moving costs add up when a service member moves from one duty station to another — even if he or she moves their own household goods. If you are considering renting or leasing an apartment or home at your next duty station, take preventative steps now to reduce the risk of future moving hassles. Ensure an unexpected transfer or deployment won't cost you more than it should by including a military termination clause in your lease, just in case you need to move or deploy before the lease expires.

## What is a military termination clause?

A military termination clause is a legal provision that gives you the option to end the lease before the lease term expires. For

the majority of current service members, this means that if you are deployed and want to terminate your rental agreement before heading overseas, you can do so without penalties such as paying for many months of rent, even if you are not living in the rental unit. The termination clause, however, may also apply to a landlord who is a military member and desires to end the lease because he or she is retiring from the military, being released from government service, or returning to the area where the house is located.

## How does it work?

Take the increasingly common scenario of rapid deployment, for example. Let's say you are ordered to deploy, but you have five months left on your current lease. With a military termination clause in place, you have the option to end your lease 30 days from written notification. In this case, you

should notify the landlord in writing 30 days prior to your departure that you are requesting a release from the contract because you have received orders to relocate or deploy. Don't forget to cite the military termination provision in the lease and include a copy of your permanent change of station orders with your written notification. Depending on the specific terms of the lease, you may be charged for terminating the lease early, but you should not be held responsible for rent for the remaining four months.

## What conditions could allow for the early termination of my lease?

As with any contract or an agreement, you have the right to negotiate the terms of a housing lease before signing it. Sit down

See **CLAUSE, A-8**

# United Through Reading keeps Marines, Sailors in touch with their children

## Ed Hanlon V

Marine Corps Community Services

You've received the call. Your unit is deploying. Telling your spouse was difficult, but now you are having even more difficulty finding those choice words to explain to your child that you may be gone for a pretty long time.

As you tuck your child into bed that night, and read them their favorite bedtime story, emotion hits. The thoughts of missed story times, of not being able to tuck your child in each night, no longer falling asleep to your voice, are all beginning to set.

Unfortunately, situations such as this actually occur, and the thoughts and emotions that accompany deployment are real.

If you have children and are

planning for deployment, let your face and voice be the last thing your child sees and hears before he or she goes to sleep while you continue or begin the bedtime story tradition.

The Family Literacy Foundation in partnership with the USO is proud to offer the United Through Reading program to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The program is simple. Deploying Marines and Sailors register with the USO to make an appointment at the MCCS Base Library. On the designated day, patrons either bring their child's favorite book or choose one from the library's selection and are recorded reading the book. The recording is then transferred to a DVD that the patron is welcome to take home to their child.

"The United Through Reading

program helps keep deployed military personnel connected to their children," stated Merri Fernandez, library technician. "By providing this program, we are encouraging the enjoyment of reading."

This program is entirely free of cost for participants. In order to get on the recording list, you must first register by sending an e-mail to [usohawaii@uso.org](mailto:usohawaii@uso.org). They will provide you with a recording date, which falls on the last Wednesday of every month, somewhere between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Patrons are offered 30 minutes to record a uniquely special story time.

The benefits of this program are endless. In addition to providing your child with some semblance of togetherness during deployment, you can also expand your child's vocabulary

and enhance their language and communication skills. By reading a book to your child, you can even increase your child's sense of security through the emotional closeness.

"Whether it's a parent, grandparent, extended family member or a family friend," added Fernandez, "this program eases children's separation anxiety, gives the child a sense of security, and helps the transitional period when the service member returns home."

This program began in November and will continue as long as there is a need. Register now to ensure your recording spot.

Dependent upon participation, more recording time positions may become available.

Call the MCCS Base Library at 254-7624 for more information.

# Weekend weather outlook

## Today



**Day** — Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Highs around 77. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Night** — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 65. East winds around 15 mph.

**High** — 77

**Low** — 65

## Saturday



**Day** — Partly sunny with scattered showers. Highs around 78. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

**Night** — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 66. Northeast winds around 10 mph.

**High** — 78

**Low** — 66

## Sunday



**Day** — Partly sunny with scattered showers. Highs around 78. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

**Night** — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Lows around 66. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

**High** — 78

**Low** — 66





Above: A dummy improvised explosive device detonates in the back of a pickup truck at a vehicle checkpoint. The VCP was just one of the many challenges awaiting the "Lava Dogs," of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, as part of a squad evaluation Nov. 20.

Left: Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, search an Iraqi role player at a vehicle checkpoint.

# Vehicle checkpoint training: *‘Lava Dogs’ prepare for deployment to Iraq*

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** — In preparation for an upcoming deployment to Iraq, Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, participated in a squad evaluation from Nov. 14 to 20. The evaluation challenged the “Lava Dogs” skills in various scenarios and missions that are similar to what they may encounter while on deployment to Iraq.

The 24-hour evolution included evaluation of vehicle checkpoints, where the main objective was to have the Marines search vehicles and personnel after setting up a basic VCP, said 2nd Lt. Jonathan A. Arnold, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company.

“We also wanted to see the interaction between the Marines and the role players and the escalation of force,” said the native of Pewaukee, Wisc. “We were looking to see if they were using their Arabic language

cards and how much they knew about the language.”

Arnold said approximately four different scenarios were presented for each squad to complete and not all involved vehicles.

“VCPs are not just about searching the vehicles,” said the 26-year-old. “I’ll send one group through cooperative; the next group may have a weapon or (improvised explosive device). We’ll even have people just walk up to the VCP with no vehicle.”

Arnold said the biggest challenge for the Marines who man VCPs is to be thorough in their search and in their questioning.

A lot of the Marines will overlook things like role players acting suspicious or overlook checking certain compartments in the vehicle, said Arnold.

“They need to ask more questions and know the Arabic phrases,” he said.

Arnold said that overall, the squads were doing very well – especially since they were suffering from extreme lack of sleep.

“All the Marines are tired, but that’s the nature of the business,” said Arnold. “I can’t say one squad has done the best, because each time a new scenario is presented to each squad, they just keep getting better and better.”

“Our main objective was to cut off the main supply route the enemies use to transport weapons,” said Lance Cpl. Marc D. Ruggiero, squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company. “We were looking for vehicle-born IEDs, weapons without paperwork, and regular villagers who would come up and give us problems.”

The native of Milford, Conn., said the biggest challenge for the Marines was trying to maintain security while handling the problems that they were being presented.

“Everyone is getting more comfortable about how everything works, but we need to work on our organization and how to make things happen faster,” said the 22-year-old. “The newer Marines did pretty well, though, considering this was their first VCP.”

Arnold said the Marines also did very well when a female would approach the checkpoint. They all knew what to do in that situation.

“The Iraqi role players base their roles on how the Marines react to them,” said Arnold. “They, of course, have some guidance on what they are to do, but if the Marines are cooperative and say the right things, the role players will react off of that.”

“That is the part of the training where the Marines learn how to meet and build Iraqi trust. It’s not all about kicking down doors when you’re in Iraq. The Iraqis are the ones who will be able to give us useful information over there, so we need to know how

to talk to them and be courteous.”

Arnold said the Marines are improving their use of the Arabic language.

“The whole squad clicks really well,” said Pfc. Jason A. Carbone, point man, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company. “The best part of this squad evaluation, so far for me, is being able to talk to the Iraqi role players. I was selected by the platoon sergeant to attend classes given by the Defense Language Institute to learn more Arabic, and this is the first time I got to train with the squad. I’m looking forward to exercising what I’ve learned from language, to tactics.”

Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, drag a role player who was killed after a dummy improvised explosive device detonated in the back of a pickup truck at a vehicle checkpoint. Each 1/3 squad going through the evaluation was put through a variety of scenarios in order to gauge their effectiveness at vehicle checkpoints.



A role player is searched after being pulled over at the vehicle checkpoint Nov. 20.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, search a vehicle for anything suspicious at a vehicle checkpoint during a squad evaluation. The objective of this portion of the evaluation was to have the Marines cut off the main supply route to enemy forces to prevent them from transporting weapons.



# Fallen Marines remembered in Iraq

**Cpl. Luke Blom**

*2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment*

**HADITHA, Iraq** — Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, packed into a dusty, dim-light hallway at their headquarters to remember two of their own in a memorial service Nov. 3.

Private First Class Donald S. Brown and Pfc. Daniel B. Chaires, infantrymen with Echo Company, 2/3, died Oct. 25, while conducting security operations in Haditha, a city of 30,000 located along the Euphrates River in western Al Anbar province.

Brown, a 19-year-old from of Succasunna, N.J., and Chaires, a 20-year-old from Tallahassee, Fla., had spent the previous six weeks patrolling the streets of Haditha, weeding out insurgents from the local population.

Marines who served with and knew Brown and Chaires recounted their time with the two fallen Marines.

Brown was a vibrant and intelligent man, according to fellow Marines, who is remembered as being an extremely motivational person.

“He was the kind of guy who just wouldn’t let you fall back. He always had his hand on your



Cpl. Luke Blom

**Photos of Pfc. Donald S. Brown (left) and Pfc. Daniel B. Chaires, infantrymen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are displayed at a memorial service held for the two Marines Nov. 3 in Haditha, Iraq. Both Brown and Chaires died Oct. 25 while conducting security operations in Haditha, a city of 30,000 located along the Euphrates River in Iraq’s western Al Anbar province.**

back pushing you through tough times,” said Lance Cpl. Thurman K. Jones, infantryman and 20-year-old from Jackson, Miss.

Brown was an avid martial arts enthusiast who loved to grapple, according to fellow Marines.

“I remember days when he’d wake me up by putting me in an arm bar. That’s just the kind of guy he was – really intense,” said Lance Cpl. Steven W. Branka II, infantryman and 19-year-old from Lancaster, N.Y.

Remembered by fellow Marines as an unwavering individual who held his family and morals above all else, Chaires was considered a good man as

well as a good Marine.

“He was always himself. He never changed to impress anybody,” said Lance Cpl. Patrick J. Lynch, infantryman and 20-year-old from Waynesboro, Pa. Chaires had aspirations to become a police officer like his father, who fellow Marines said was his most influential role model and source of ethics and values.

“He was the most loyal and courageous man I’ve ever known. He was a shining example of honor, courage and commitment,” said Lance Cpl. Richard E. Brown, infantryman and 20-year-old from Salem, Ore.

Chaires was well known for

## Warriors on patrol



Cpl. Luke Blom

**Private First Class Luke Focer, a 19-year-old Marine from Pittsburgh and infantryman with the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, kicks in the door to an abandoned building while on a patrol in Haqlaniyah, Iraq, Nov. 18.**

his manners among fellow Marines.

“He was so nice, it seemed like he was faking it sometimes,” said Lance Cpl. Joseph C. Carter, infantryman and 20-year-old from Elew, N.C.

Once the Marines were given a chance to share their memories of Chaires and Brown, 1st Sgt. Darryl Atkins, Echo Company’s senior enlisted, called role for the two fallen Marines one last time – a U.S. military tradition to honor the fallen.

As Atkins called the names of the Company’s Marines, each answered with a crisp, “all present.” When he called for Brown and Chaires, the gathering was met with a lonely silence.

The rifles, boots, Kevlar helmets and dog tags of the fallen Marines were then placed in front of the formation in recognition of Brown and Chaires.

At the close of the ceremony, Capt. Matthew Tracy, ended the ceremony by comparing

Brown and Chaires with the “night watchmen” of Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The night watchmen, according to Tracy, wandered the streets after dark to light the lanterns that lined the streets and discouraged any criminal activity in the area.

“These two Marines will continue to be our night watchmen, to remain in over-watch for the rest of our lives. If you let them, said Tracy. “their memory will light the lantern that’s in your soul.”

# Iraqis’ reaction to Saddam verdict ‘apathetic’ in Haditha

**Cpl. Luke Blom**

*2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment*

*Editor’s Note: The names of Iraqis sourced in this article have been changed to protect their identities.*

**HADITHA, Iraq** — Marines from the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment noticed little, if any, reaction of the local Haditha population to the verdict and subsequent sentencing of Saddam Hussein.

After nearly a year of trial by the Iraqi High Tribunal, Hussein was convicted and sentenced to death Nov. 5, for crimes against humanity.

While there were both celebrations and protests in response to the verdict in other areas of Iraq, residents in the Haditha “Triad” region, home to about 80,000 people and consisting of three Euphrates River towns of Haditha, Barwanah and Haqlaniyah, seemed surprisingly indifferent to the news, said Capt. Paul Bischoff, intelligence officer, 2/3.

In the hours and days following the announcement of Hussein’s fate, Marines hit the streets of the Triad to gauge the reaction of local citizens.

“The vast majority hadn’t even heard about the verdict, and once they were told most of them just appeared apathetic to the news,” said Bischoff, a 30-year-old native of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

“There really hasn’t been much of a reaction out here at all. I haven’t

seen any difference in the Iraqis’ behavior or our operations,” said Lance Cpl. Zachary Woodburn, infantryman and 20-year-old from Parkersburg, W. Va.

The areas where there were substantial reactions were areas of the country where there is a sectarian divide of Shiite and Sunni Arabs among the population, according to various news reports.

After decades of oppression from Hussein’s regime, Shiites were openly enthusiastic about the news of the guilty verdict against Saddam, while Sunnis who often benefited from the regime expressed their opposition.

In the predominantly Shiite cities of southern Iraq, such as the port city of Basra, and the Shiite holy city of Najaf, demonstrators took to the streets in celebration.

Large demonstrations in the Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad were held with people firing guns into the air and waving banners in approval of the sentence.

But in other Sunni areas such as Ramadi and Saddam’s hometown of Tikrit, angry demonstrators denounced the sentence. Sunnis in Baghdad took to the streets, despite a citywide curfew, to express their opposition to the verdict.

While the Triad area is predominantly Sunni, the lack of reaction came as no surprise due to a lack of faith in the new Iraqi government, said Bischoff.

“There’s a lot of disillusionment out here. There is no ‘buy in’ to the



Cpl. Luke Blom

**A Marine assigned to Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, walks his patrol in the street of Iraq as Iraqi civilians sit outside their homes in Haditha, Iraq.**

national political system right now, and the bottom line is that they don’t have a vision of the future,” said Bischoff. “Basically, the people out here have much more important stuff to worry about.”

With a lack of faith in the fledgling political system in the Al Anbar province, local Iraqi citizens here focus on family, daily life, and their safety from the daily clashes of Coalition Forces and the local insurgency,” said Ahmed, a citizen of Haditha.

“The Sunnis loved Saddam, the Shiites hated him. But none of this

matters anymore, because he is no longer in power. The news of his trial really does not matter out here,” said Ahmed.

Even though the local population seems indifferent to Hussein’s sentence, the Marines of 2/3 think this is a giant step forward for the new Iraqi government to forget about their troubled past and move ahead with a democratically elected political system.

The trial of Saddam Hussein was held in an Iraqi court under the Iraqi judicial system, which represents a major success for the Iraqi government,

according to 2/3 Marine officials.

“With the death of Saddam comes the end of the Saddam era in Iraq,” said Bischoff.

Iraq now has its own permanent constitution, giving the newly formed Iraqi National Assembly, consisting of 275 democratically elected officials, a road map to help ensure a successful democratic Iraqi future.

The effect of Saddam Hussein’s rule will be a long-lasting scar on the people of Iraq, but the new government offers hope for the future, said Ahmed. “We want to move on now.”



# Trainer first to be used by Hawaii Marines

**Sgt. Sara A. Carter**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Training is vital to the success of a unit deployment. While it is impossible to totally prepare for what will happen while in the theater of operations, simulators are used as a way to provide realistic training scenarios to better prepare Marines.

One way Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has been preparing its warriors is by utilizing the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, Enhanced, and the Amphibious Assault Vehicle Turret Trainer.

The AAV TT is the first to be used on K-Bay. All Marines who drive AAVs are required to train on the TT before they can use the live-fire range.

“This not only saves money on rounds, it familiarizes the Marines with the vehicle before they shoot,” said Staff Sgt. Nick Dospital, AAV TT instructor and operator for 3rd Marines, Combat Assault Company.

From loading the weapon to how it is fired, everything that can be done in an AAV can be done in the trainer.

The idea for the trainer came from a joint project with engineers from Naval Air System Command’s Program Manager Training Systems and contractors. The turret they used was refurbished by CAC from an asset that was slated for the Defense Reutilization

and Marketing Office. The TT has nine gun tables and various targets the Marines learn how to shoot before practicing with live rounds. Marines have been utilizing the AAV TT, housed in Building 243, for about two months. Recently another ISMT-E was placed in the building so now there are two linked ISMT-Es to train Marines. The attendees of Sergeants’ Course 02-07 are also scheduled to use the equipment.

The facility has been around for a while, but only housed one screen that made it a long process to train the 25 Marines enrolled in the course, said Staff Sgt. Larry Learn, instructor advisor, Sergeants’ Course. Now, with the two screens, eight to 10 Marines can train at one time, which gives each of them more time to practice.

Until recently, Marines who attended the course were required to use ISMTs at the 3rd Marine Regiment’s Simulation Center for their training. According to Learn, because the Staff Academy now has its own facility, the students will receive double the amount of time to simulate shooting weapons such as the M-240G machine gun, M-16A2 service rifle, M-203 grenade launcher, M-249 squad automatic weapon and 50-caliber heavy machine gun.



Brigadier Gen. Steven Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, looks at an old turret that is now being used as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle Turret Trainer.

Just like the AAV TT training, after Marines complete initial training with these weapons they then perform practical application with them in the field where they use blank rounds. “This might be the only time in a Marines’ career that they get the opportunity to shoot these weapons,” Learn said.

According to Ed Green, G-3’s manager of the Combat Training Devices and Simulators Section, it took almost two years to get the building up and running. “The Facilities Department did a tremendous job making the building usable,” Green said. He also praised on-site NavAir Engineer Riki Kawakami for completing

several self-help projects in the building and for keeping the ISMT equipment running. Brig. Gen. Steven Hummer, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, viewed the facility Nov. 20. As he left, he said to the individuals responsible for getting the equipment and putting the building together,

“Keep pushing the margins. We should always be trying to make things better.” Any unit can utilize the AAV MTT. To schedule the use of the trainer, call Staff Sgt. Nick Dospital at 257-2563. Also, ISMT time can be scheduled by calling Ed Green at 257-1110; however, the Staff Academy has priority.

# ‘Lava Dogs’ continue squad evaluation training

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** — As part of a weeklong squad evaluation, Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, took part in route security patrols at the east ranges near Schofield Barracks Nov. 14 to 20. The squad evaluation was designed to take 27 of the battalion’s rifle squads and three engineer squads through 24-hour operations that would challenge and prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Iraq. A route security patrol station provided different scenarios and situations squads may have to deal with in Iraq, said Staff Sgt. Colin S. Boyd, infantry platoon sergeant, Charlie Company, 1/3. “The squads will have to deal with spotting (improvised explosive devices), casualties, and interacting with locals, among other things,” said Boyd, a native of Larve, Ohio. It made them use their mind. It’s a thinking Marine’s game; it’s not about using brute force all the time. They would encounter many situations at once and have to come up with the best solution.” Boyd said the same situations were delivered to each squad and each one worked hard to out do the other, as it was a competition as well as training. “I think the biggest challenge for the Marines during the route security was dealing with multiple situations all at once,” said Boyd, who was an evaluator for the event. “In

one scenario, you have Marines trying to identify an IED, while on one side of the road there is a man with a cell phone. Then, on the other side of the road, out in the distance, there are two other unidentified individuals. Getting the Marines to prioritize what needs to be done takes a lot of communication and team work.” Corporal Matt L. Sartori, squad leader, Charlie Company, 1/3, who deployed with the battalion to Afghanistan, said the squad evaluation is letting them identify what needs to be worked on before their deployment to Iraq. “The newer Marines who haven’t deployed before are picking up on things really fast, and I think they’ll definitely be ready by the time we deploy,” said the native of Braidwood, Ill. “This is the first time for me to do a squad evaluation, and I’ve learned stuff myself. The role players can let us know exactly what we’re doing wrong when we do it.” The new Marines who are being challenged are gaining knowledge they will need to complete their mission in Iraq. “I think this training is really helpful to all of us, because we are going to be doing a lot of patrolling, room clearing, and need to know how to identify IEDs while on patrol,” said Pfc. Bryant A. Powell, machine gunner, 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company. “It gets exhausting, but you need to give 110 percent out here. The rest of the squad is relying on you.” Boyd said that even with the extreme lack

of sleep, morale is high. “The big thing that drives us, is their drive,” said Boyd. “They’re all working very hard and want to perform well. They’re all doing really well out here and they’re all learning a lot.”



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

A Marine from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, shakes hands with an Iraqi role player during urban patrolling at Schofield Barracks, Nov. 19. The Marines of 1/3 were taking part in a squad evaluation to further prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

## Bravo Zulu



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Commander, United States Pacific Command Admiral William J. Fallon, speaks to Marines and Sailors assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at the Base Theater aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Nov. 22. Admiral Fallon welcomed “America’s Battalion” back from a recent seven-month deployment to Iraq and congratulated them for a job well done.



# ‘Lava Dogs’ continue to hone Arabic language skills

**Sgt. Jacques-René Hébert**  
*U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific*

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** — The sweet, sour smell of a bustling crowd warmed by the afternoon sun filled the crowded marketplace.

Eyes darted back and forth, hands were shaken, and feet shuffled. Voices of Iraqis – peddling politics and wares – were indistinguishable. Like bricks, each cry built upon another, rising to a crescendo in a tower of babble. Without will or warning, the tower fell into screams as the sound of gunfire ripped into the frenzied souk.

Though this scenario has become commonplace to service members serving in Iraq, these Iraqis are lucky. The bullets were blanks and the insurgents are role players.

From Nov. 14 to 20, infantry Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, received realistic training at Schofield Barracks from Iraqi expatriates who were preparing them for exercise Mojave Viper and an eventual deployment to Iraq.

The training, conducted by Force Preparedness Training Services, immersed the Marines in the culture, etiquette and customs of the Iraqi people in an effort to further educate and prepare them for the reality they will soon face.

“A large part of our mission in Iraq is diplomacy,” said retired 1st Sgt. Ronald Matthias, deputy project manager for operations, FPTs. “This could possibly be the most valuable

part of the Marines’ specialized training. Not only do they need to win battles, but the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people need to be won over as well.”

The spirit of those words wove its way through the actions of the participating Iraqis – many of whom are now U.S. citizens – as they helped the Marines understand their dynamic and often misunderstood culture.

“Iraqis are a proud people,” said Mishtak al-Rafai, a former Iraqi and now American citizen who lives in Louisville with his wife Maria, who is Iraqi-born and was also a participant in the exercise. “Like anybody, Iraqis can mistake some actions as insults. Insults can do irreparable damage. It is important that the U.S. troops understand our customs to make it easier for Iraqis to want to cooperate and aid them in their effort to bring peace to our country.”

Al-Rafai’s brown eyes flashed anguish and anger as he recounted his experiences in and out of Iraq. One of the U.S.-supported revolutionaries who attempted to topple Saddam Hussein’s reign of terror shortly after Operation Desert Storm, Al-Rafai’s tale is earmarked by tragedy, culminating in the decimation of the rebels and an exodus to Saudi Arabia. An enemy of the state, Al-Rafai could never return to his homeland where he had forever left friends and family – a familiar story among the participants in the exercise.

These experiences, along with Matthias’ guidance, helped create a realistic setting for instructing the



Sgt. Jacques-René Hébert  
**Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, participate in a training exercise with more than 40 Iraqi-Americans in an effort to further familiarize themselves with the customs, courtesies and culture of the Iraqi people.**

Marines in situations they will encounter in the months ahead. Simulated sniper attacks, information gathering from sheiks, and rioting provided the Marines with a chance to utilize their newfound knowledge of Arabic customs and language.

“The whole experience was extremely challenging, but the payoff was immense,” said Sgt. Brian Baker, a squad leader from 1st,

Battalion, 3rd Marines. “This is by far the best training exercise we’ve done to prepare us for the upcoming deployment to Iraq. At certain points, the role players did such a good job in presenting us with problems to overcome, I felt like I was over there already.”

The Marines’ education does not stop at the end of the exercise. For 1/3, the training continues with further language and culture classes

that are scheduled for the immediate future.

“Though this was a very educational experience for our Marines, they have much more to learn,” said Staff Sgt. Douglas Derring, a platoon sergeant from 1/3. “They’ve been given common phrase cards in Arabic, and we give them monthly testing to ensure that, by the time they’re deployed, they’ll have a working knowledge of the language.”

# U.S. units securing, rebuilding Afghanistan in small steps

**Kathleen T. Rhem**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan** — Bringing stability to provinces in Afghanistan and bringing areas under control of the national government is a two-step process that’s progressing steadily in small steps.

United States forces operating under NATO’s International Security Assistance Force at nine forward operating bases in Regional Command East and two in Regional Command South fall into two main categories: provincial reconstruction teams and maneuver units.

“Maneuver will go in, and we’ll take an area controlled by the Taliban or insurgent forces,” said Army Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, operations sergeant major for Task Force Iron Graze. “We’ll take it from ‘red’ – meaning controlled by the enemy – and we’ll conduct operations in order to get rid of the enemy to make it more hospitable for the PRT to operate in.

“We get rid of the bad guys, then the (U.S. Agency for

International Development) and the engineers and all those people who are going to work on the infrastructure will come in,” he added.

Gran said it’s important for an area to be relatively secure before infrastructure improvements can begin. “We don’t want to go out and build stuff when the enemy is just going to burn it down,” he said.

Progress has been steady in TF Iron Graze’s area of operations, which is all of Ghazni province – 28,000 square kilometers. In the seven months that the 102nd Infantry Battalion, of the Connecticut National Guard, has run TF Iron Graze, the unit has gained a lot of ground in the security arena. “We’ve done a lot of kinetic (traditional military) operations; a lot of the bad guys are pretty much going away,” Gran said.

At Forward Operating Base Gardez, Task Force Vanguard officials report similar progress. “We’ve been busy running the bad guys out of the woods,” Army Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Walker, TF Vanguard’s senior enlisted advisor, yesterday told Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey, senior



Kathleen T. Rhem  
**U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey (left), senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Afghan Command Sgt. Maj. Roshan Safi (right), the first sergeant major of the Afghan National Army, speak with Afghan and American service members assigned to the Afghan National Army Logistics Command Nov. 22 in Kabul, Afghanistan.**

enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gainey made Thanksgiving visits to several bases in Afghanistan.

Task Force Vanguard is the operational element for maneuver missions in Paktika and Logar provinces.

“It’s a challenge to get out and make sure you can provide security so the PRT can build

schools and infrastructure,” Walker said.

Gainey praised the way maneuver and reconstruction teams are working in concert to make huge gains in Afghanistan. “The task forces are gaining trust using kinetic capabilities in support of the non-kinetic capabilities of the PRTs, who are the ones who are doing the work of winning hearts and minds,” he told

American Forces Press Service.

The continuing success of the PRTs in many areas is allowing the maneuver units in those areas now maintain security without engaging in fire-fights. “They’re winning engagements without a single bullet being fired,” Gainey said. “That’s what every soldier would like to do.”

He said he believes that helping Afghans in the provinces to help themselves is winning a battle in its own right. “Soldiers are used to winning battles by pulling triggers,” Gainey said. “It might be more challenging to win without pulling the trigger, but the results are often more lasting.”

Task Force Vanguard is working to improve security in the region around FOB Gardez even though the unit is a brigade special troops battalion – the communications, intelligence, military police, and other support troops who support combat arms units. This unit made up of various support troops is performing tasks normally done by infantry units, explained Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Redmore of Task Force Spartan, the brigade-level headquarters that oversees TF

Vanguard and other units.

“They’re working as a maneuver battalion task force, but they’re not combat arms,” he said.

Morale is particularly high in Task Force Spartan because the unit is organized under the Army’s relatively new modular brigade concept, Redmore said. The unit’s members were formed into a unit, then trained together, deployed together, are serving together and will redeploy together.

“Morale is as high as it could be considering it’s Thanksgiving and these soldiers are away from home,” Redmore said in an interview. “Cohesiveness is much higher, especially under challenging and trying times.

“Everyone here is a brother,” he added.

The sergeant major acknowledged that service members will have bad days and deal with challenges. “But it helps when soldiers can lean on each other,” he said.

Redmore said service members of TF Spartan understand their roles and that what they’re doing is important. “What they’re doing has reason and gives them something to be proud of.”



# ‘Visions of Valor’ exhibit stops at depot

**Lance Cpl. James Green**  
*Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego*

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO** — A display of photographs and biographies featuring Medal of Honor recipients was opened for the public to view at James L. Day Hall, the depot command museum Nov. 9.

The traveling exhibit was graced with the presence of two Medal of Honor recipients, John Baca and James A. Taylor, who both spoke to the attendees during the grand opening of the TriWest-sponsored “Visions of Valor” exhibition, which will remain on the depot until Jan. 9, 2007.

There are 140 portraits and citations of the recipients of the nation’s highest military decoration, which has been earned by men who showed uncommon valor in combat.

“A lot of Marines, Sailors and soldiers have received awards during the war on terrorism and still don’t understand the significance of the Medal of Honor,” said Barbara McCurtis, director of the depot museum. “This exhibit highlights the men who made the ultimate sacrifice and left the battlefield with the most respected award that is presented by our nation.”

Many of the Medal of Honor recipients received the award posthumously, and the fewer than 120 recipients who are alive today continue to inspire those who will survive them.

Their history is honored through the traveling exhibit, said McCurtis. It allows the men and women of the United States to put faces along with the stories of these brave and noble men as the exhibit passes through the cities of the country.

Their portraits attribute quotes directly from the mouths of the recipients, which gives the exhibit a more



Medal of Honor recipient James A. Taylor (left) speaks with news correspondent Bob Lawrence, KGTV 10 San Diego, before the Visions of Valor ceremony in front of the traveling exhibit at James L. Day Hall, the depot command museum.

personal touch, McCurtis added.

“Visions of Valor” brings a sense of history to the museum in a way that differs from the other exhibits there. It personalizes the medal recipients featured.

Having living recipients at the exhibit’s opening helped enhance the visitors’ understanding of these heroic men’s deeds.

“All the men in these pictures symbolize a family I never had, and to be a part of it is definitely special,” said Mr.

Baca, a native of San Diego.

“Visions of Valor” is more than just a traveling display of heroes. It is a place where 140 of the more than 3,460 Medal of Honor recipients in American history are pictured in the same place and time regardless of the era in which they served the United States.

The freedoms America has that most other countries do not, are continually re-established because of the men and women in the armed forces, said Sgt. Curtis R. Hawkins, depot videographer.

Hawkins, who is from Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, said they not only put their lives on the line for the man next to them, but for the families that remain stateside.

“I know the sacrifices the service members make, and I know how it feels to have someone visit you in the hospital after you are wounded,” said Baca, who visits injured service members at Naval Medical Center San Diego. “With the freedom they give

this nation, the least I can do is give my time.”

Baca received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He threw himself on an enemy fragmentation grenade, which was covered by his helmet, saving eight men from injury or death.

The common virtues of uncommon valor captured in the portraits of the Medal of Honor recipients will continue to make their way throughout

the western region of the United States. The recipients’ selfless actions will be forever immortalized in the form of this traveling exhibit.

“The humility and heroism of these great patriots shines through every photograph,” said David J. McIntyre, TriWest president and CEO. “It is our extreme pleasure to be able to share their incredible faces — and, indeed, incredible stories — with this portrait collection.”

## No job too small



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Master Gunnery Sgt. Daniel G. Zimmerman, comptroller chief, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, prepares one of the 19 turkeys served at the senior enlisted Thanksgiving luncheon held at the Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M. Smith Nov. 22. The senior Marines prepared the turkeys and enough fixings to serve the entire battalion and then some. U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Key Volunteers Network provided door prizes that were raffled off during the luncheon. “It’s good to get together like this with friends and colleagues,” said Col. Cosmas Spofford, commanding officer, MarForPac Headquarters and Service Battalion. “This is a great way to come together and build on the camaraderie that Marines are known for.”



# Let the best men win



Staff Sgt Marc Ayalin

As an icebreaker, American and Chinese Marines shake hands and introduce themselves before the start of the obstacle course run in Zhanjiang, China. The event was part of a friendly military competition between Marines from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, the Battalion Landing Team of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the People's Republic of China's 1st Marine Brigade to build relations with their Chinese counterparts. The event was held during the amphibious transport dock ship USS Juneau's (LPD-10) three-day port visit and Search and Rescue Exercise.

# Away from home



Cpl. Luke Blom

Corporal Andres Lopez, 21, from Atlantic City, N.J., and forward security element team member, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, digs into his Thanksgiving Day meal in a mess hall in Haditha, Iraq, Nov. 23. More than 300 service members took a break from combat operations Thanksgiving Day and dined on turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing and pumpkin pie.

## CLAUSE, from A-2

with the landlord and discuss your situation. Come to a mutual agreement on what scenarios will allow you to terminate the lease early. In addition to long-term deployment, you might want to be able to end your lease if you have a temporary change of station for more than three months. After this discussion, make sure any verbal agreements are written into the lease before signing. Also, always make sure your name is on the lease. An early termination clause may not be applicable to a lease if a nonmilitary member — e.g., your spouse only — is on the lease. Of course, your family may be staying in the apartment or house and you might want the lease to con-

tinue. If you do, then you simply don't invoke the early termination provisions. But even in this case, it is important that the service member signs the lease. If you have any questions or doubts about a lease you are about to sign, go to your legal assistance office and ask for an attorney to review your lease with you.

### Is there a fee for ending my lease early?

Some states have laws that permit the landlord to charge an early termination fee and your termination clause may include such a term. For example, if your lease period was one year and you are ending your lease after six months, the lease may stipulate that you pay one half of one

month's rent as a fee.

### What if the landlord won't agree to include a "military" termination provision?

Check with your local housing office and the legal assistance office. The Service Members' Civil Relief Act, which is federal law, requires landlords to terminate residential leases for military personnel who are transferred or deployed. If this is the case, you should bring this up during the negotiation period. You can always exert your buying power and shop around for a different place — and a landlord who is understanding of your career and willing to agree to these terms. Even if the landlord tells you that he or she knows about the SCRA that permits you to terminate your lease early, you should still get that included in the rental contract. Having your contract talk about early termination makes ending your lease a lot more worry-free.

### What should a military termination clause cover?

A military termination clause should allow you, the military tenant, the option of ending your lease if you:

Receive permanent change of station orders to transfer to another duty station, the main gate of which is more than 20 miles from the main gate of your former duty station.

Receive military orders requiring you to move into government quarters or you voluntarily move into government quarters.

Retire or are released from active duty.

Receive temporary duty orders, temporary change of station orders, or you deploy for a period exceeding 60 days to an area more than 40 miles from where the premises are located.

Have leased the property before relocating or moving to the area, and your orders are changed to a different area before you occupy the property.

### Where can I get a military termination clause?

Visit your local housing office or the legal assistance office. They usually have a form addendum appropriate for your circumstances that will supplement any termination rights provided to you by the state where you are located. As with any contract that you have questions or doubts about, visit your legal assistance office in order to have an attorney review the lease with you before you sign.

### What if I'm in a lease already that does not have a military termination clause?

The SCRA might still apply to your situation and you may be able to terminate your lease early. So if you are about to deploy or PCS and your lease term will not expire before you leave, contact your legal assistance office in order to discuss your options under the SCRA.